

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

SAJ-01 STR-08 CEA-02 NEA-10 CU-04 DRC-01 /230 W

----- 035072

R 060842Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0308

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 3378

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, HU

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON PRIME MINISTER FOCK

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. PRIME MINISTER FOCK RECEIVED ME FOR COURTESY CALL ON OCTOBER 3, THE SECOND DAY AFTER HIS RETURN FROM VACATION. HE HAD ONLY AN INTERPRETER PRESENT. FOCK WAS QUITE CORDIAL, DIRECT AND THOROUGHLY INFORMED ON SUBJECTS WE DISCUSSED. AFTER OPENING PLEASANTRIES AND CONDOLENCES OVER VALYI'S DEATH (WHICH OBVIOUSLY AFFECTED HIM DEEPLY), PM EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT PROGRESS OF OUR RELATIONS IN LAST FEW YEARS AND REITERATED THE DESIRE I HAVE HEARD FROM EVERYONE HERE FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS IN OUR ASSOCIATION. PM SAID HE WAS BRIEFED ON MY OTHER CONVERSATIONS IN BUDAPEST AND DID NOT THINK WE NEEDED TO GO INTO SUBJECTS IN DETAIL. I THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO MAKE CONVERSATION A SOCIAL AND PROTOCOL ONE, BUT HE THEN SAID HE WANTED TO MENTION TWO SUBJECTS: TRADE DISCRIMINATION AND THE CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN. I SUBSEQUENTLY INTRODUCED VIETNAM AS A FINAL TOPIC.

END SUMMARY

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2. THE PM STARTED ON TRADE. HE SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT DISCRIMINATION IN OUR TRADE RELATIONSHIP BE ELIMINATED. WHEN HE SPOKE OF DISCRIMINATION HE MEANT IN BOTH DIRECTIONS, FOR HUNGARY APPLIED IT TO US IN RESPONSE TO OUR REFUSAL TO GIVE THEM MOST-FAVORED-NATION STATUS. HUNGARY HAD RECENTLY BECOME MEMBER OF GATT AND ALL OF ITS TRADING PARTNERS NOW GAVE THEM EQUAL TREATMENT EXCEPT U.S. HE KNEW WE WERE SEEKING AUTHORITY TO EXTEND MFN TO HUNGARY AND HE WISHED PRESIDENT NIXON SUCCESS IN HIS ENDEAVORS WITH THE CONGRESS. IN RESPONSE, I REVIEWED THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE LEGISLATION, NOTING THAT PROBLEMS WE WERE ENCOUNTERING DID NOT TURN AROUND ISSUES WITH HUNGARY. I SAID THE USG VERY MUCH DESIRED TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH HUNGARY AND HUNGARY WAS WELL REGARDED THROUGHOUT WASHINGTON. I CALLED PM'S ATTENTION TO RECENT STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT, SECRETARY OF STATE, SHULTZ AND DENT SUPPORTING MFN AND REAFFIRMED OUR INTENTION TO CONTINUE TO WORK TO OBTAIN SATISFACTORY LEGISLATION.

3. ON CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN, PRIME MINISTER SAID THIS ALSO WAS ISSUE ON WHICH HUNGARY WOULD LIKE TO SEE EARLY RESOLUTION. IT WAS UNPRECEDENTED FOR A COUNTRY MAINTAINING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ANOTHER TO RETAIN POSSESSION OF HISTORICAL PROPERTY IMPORTANT TO IT. THIS WAS ISSUE WHICH "SHOULD HAVE BEEN SOLVED LONG AGO." HE HAD DISCUSSED MATTER WITH SECRETARY ROGERS LAST YEAR AND FELT SECRETARY HAD "PRACTICALLY PROMISED" WE WOULD RETURN IT. ISSUE COULD NOT BE THAT DIFFICULT IN UNITED STATES. OUT OF 2 MILLION PEOPLE, PROBABLY NO MORE THAN 100,000 KNEW ABOUT CROWN. HIS OWN FEELING WAS THAT MANY OF THEM (HE OBVIOUSLY MEANT HUNGARIAN-AMERICANS) WOULD IN FACT SUPPORT ITS RETURN. HE SAID HE THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE AN INCREASING DESIRE IN PARLIAMENT TO RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT IT, ALTHOUGH HE COULD UNDERSTAND (AND IMPLIED HE SYMPATHIZED WITH) OUR REASONS FOR NOT WANTING THIS ISSUE TO RECEIVE TOO MUCH PUBLIC ATTENTION.

4. I TOLD PRIME MINISTER I WAS SURE HE WAS FULLY AWARE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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OUR BASIC POLICY ON THIS MATTER, WHICH RECOGNIZED CROWN AS PROPERTY OF HUNGARIAN PEOPLE. I TOLD HIM WE WERE ALSO AWARE OF HUNGARIAN VIEWS ON ITS EARLY RETURN AND THAT I WOULD REPORT HIS COMMENTS FULLY TO WASHINGTON. I NOTED THAT PRINCIPAL OFFICIALS OF USG WERE FULLY APPRISED OF ITS IMPORTANCE AT ALL LEVELS. I SAID THAT AT THIS POINT I FELT IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL TO CONCENTRATE ON IMPROVEMENTS IN OUR TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS, INCLUDING MFN

AND A TRADE AGREEMENT.

5. I THEN SAID I THOUGHT THERE WAS ONE OTHER ISSUE THAT SHOULD BE MENTIONED, WHICH WAS VIETNAM. I OBSERVED THAT THE STANCE OF THEIR UNIT IN ICCS WAS THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT MATTER ON THEIR SIDE WHICH SEEMED CAPABLE OF AFFECTING THE PACE OF THE IMPROVEMENT IN OUR RELATIONS. FOCK REPLIED ESSENTIALLY ALONG LINES PREVIOUSLY CONVEYED TO US AS THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT'S POSITION. HE SAID HUNGARY HAD ONLY TAKEN ON THIS RESPONSIBILITY AT REQUEST OF NORTH VIETNAM AND U.S. IT WAS A COSTLY, DIFFICULT JOB IN WHICH THEY HAD ALREADY LOST TWO MEN. WHATEVER DIFFERENCES OR PROBLEMS THERE MIGHT BE IN CONNECTION WITH THE ICCS, THEY SHOULD BE HANDLED AMONG OUR REPRESENTATIVES IN VIETNAM AND NOT BE ALLOWED TO AFFECT OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. I REPLIED THAT WE HAD NO DESIRE TO UTULIZE CONCERN ABOUT THEIR ROLE IN VIETNAM TO DISRUPT FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR RELATIONSHIP, TO WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER INTERJECTED THAT WE HAD "THREATENED" TO DO JUST THAT. I SAID THIS WAS NOT THE CASE. DIRECT AMERICAN INTERESTS WERE SERIOUSLY INVOLVED IN VIETNAM. THE WORLD WAS NOW A VERY SMALL PLACE. IT WAS THEREFORE UNREALISTIC TO THINK THAT WHAT THEY DID IN VIETNAM COULD BE DIVORCED FROM REST OF OUR RELATIONSHIP. MY TERMS OF REFERENCE FROM PRESIDENT NIXON WERE TO MAINTAIN AND TO EXTEND THE IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN HUNGARY AND THE U.S. THIS WAS OUR MAIN OBJECTIVE. AT THE SAME TIME IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR GOH TO UNDERSTAND THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP WAS VIEWED IN WASHINGTON AS A WHOLE AND THAT THEIR ROLE IN VIETNAM DID BEAR UPON IT.

6. DURING COURSE OF CONVERSATION, PRIME MINISTER HIMSELF RAISED THE CULTURAL CONVENTION AS A MATTER ON
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